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June 18, 1992
Contact: Pam Huber

BISHOPS VS. LAITY — The Catholics Speak Out project today released results of a new Gallup survey on the opinions of U.S. Catholics as well as an interpretation of the survey that is “antagonistic and misleading,” says Dennis Doyle, associate professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton. Doyle has written *The Church Emerging from Vatican II*, a book to be published in October, and has followed Catholic attitudinal surveys since the mid-1980s.

“The slanted interpretation presents a dichotomy of bishops on one shore and the laity on the other shore,” says Doyle, and turns complex matters into simple questions. “It doesn’t take into account that a lot of people do not understand the positions of the bishops. What does it mean that they disagree if they don’t understand?”

He said the interpretation also implies that Catholic bishops hold positions they do not hold on questions of AIDS and condoms, the personal conscience of Catholics regarding birth control and equal job opportunities for homosexuals. “Change is going on in the church, and I think it’s great that change is going on,” says Doyle. “But this kind of approach is antagonistic. It’s not trying to bring about change but revolution.”

Call **Dennis Doyle** at (513) 229-4219 or (513) 278-0577.

NEW LIFE FOR CLOSED BASES — Last year, the U.S. Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended the closure of 34 military facilities throughout the U.S., but some of those facilities could have a second life — as schools. Patrick Sweeney, professor of engineering management and systems at the University of Dayton, surveyed 75 bases that were closed between 1961 and 1975. Sweeney found 33 of the closed bases are now thriving as colleges and vocational schools. “Together they enrolled 52,500 students,” Sweeney said.

Educational facilities become viable re-uses when communities take action, Sweeney said. Under law, when a government installation is closed, a local community can acquire it for free, Sweeney said, if it is used for educational purposes. One good example in Ohio is the Ohio Point Joint Vocational School, formerly an early warning system radar site strategically located on Ohio’s highest ground in Logan County. “It takes the leadership of a community taking the initiative, going to Washington, and asking ‘what are you going to do for us?’” Sweeney said.

Call **Patrick Sweeney** at (513) 229-2736.



The University of Dayton

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.